

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-9 are pending with claims 1, 7, and 8 being independent.

The Official Action objected to the specification for not including section headings and for other formal matters.

Responsively, the specification has been amended so as to remedy the stated basis of objection.

The Official Action objected to claims 1-9 due to various informalities.

Responsively, the claims have been amended so as to remedy the stated basis of objection. Withdrawal of the claim objections is solicited.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-9 provisionally under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 4 of copending Application No. 10/041,627.

Claim 4 has been canceled from the copending application, thereby making the double-patenting rejection unnecessary. Accordingly, withdrawal of the provisional double-patenting rejection is solicited.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Official Action indicated that claims 1-9 were directed to

allowable subject matter but for a pending §112, first paragraph rejection. That is, the claims are directed to allowable subject matter but for claims 1-9 being rejected under §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter asserted as being not described in the specification so as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time of the application, were in possession of the claimed invention. More specifically, the Official Action says that it is not described in the specification how ring 40 can be adjusted or displaced and how the displacement would not affect the alignment with bore 39.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Ring 40 is clearly identified in each of Figures 2-3.

See the disclosure relating to these figures beginning at least with the last two paragraphs of specification page 4.

The last paragraph of specification page 4 introduces the height adjustment ring 40. That is, it is disclosed that stem 35 of piston 33 is seated in the bore of height adjustment ring 40, which is screwed into the lower part 32 of the cylinder housing 30. See that the following statement indicates that by axially displacing the ring 40 within the housing 30, the stroke of the piston 33 can be varied within a range of several mm. See also within this paragraph the disclosure that the height adjustment ring can be accessed via an elongated slot 43 in the cylinder housing 30, through which a tool can be inserted into

several recesses 44 in the circumferential wall of the height adjustment ring 40, in order to rotate the ring. The ring 40 is locked at its proper height via locking bolt 45.

Applicants believe that this disclosure taken together with the drawing figures is quite clear to those skilled in the art and is fully enabling and shows that the inventors, at the time of the application, had possession of the claimed invention. Also see the last full paragraph of specification page 5. Therein is disclosed how the cylinder housing can be detached from the cooling plate 14. See that after detaching the housing 30, the piston 33 can be lifted from the height adjustment ring 40. The paragraph continues by detailing this operation. The use of the height adjustment ring appears clear to applicants in this paragraph.

Lastly, see the paragraph spanning pages 5-6 of the specification. This passage relates to Figure 4. See the end of the paragraph describing that when the height adjustment ring is moved to vary the stroke of the piston 33, the stopping surface of ring 40 closing off bore 55 is also moved, such that the end position of the valve pin is indicated properly at all times. Again, the operation of ring 40 in correspondence with the other elements of the invention appears clear to applicants.

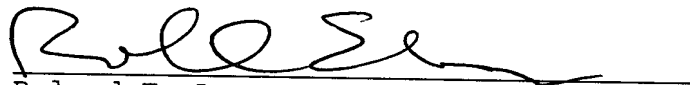
Applicants believe that a careful review of the specification together with the drawing figures will show that

there is clear disclosure to those skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112, first paragraph rejection are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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